

REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT  
AND SERVING AS VICE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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▶▶ ARE YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN?

Over the past two years my Web site has been recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation as one of the very best in the House of Representatives, winning the prestigious Gold Mouse Award. Log on to <http://Becerra.House.Gov> to find out why!

REP. BECERRA 2.0

Recently, I have been expanding the content available on my Web site in an effort to increase the number of ways for us to stay in touch. Now, there are even more ways for you to stay up-to-date with my work representing you through Facebook, YouTube and Flickr. I encourage you to explore these Web pages:



[www.facebook.com/XavierBecerra](http://www.facebook.com/XavierBecerra)  
Become a 'Fan' on Facebook and keep track of new videos, news links, discussions, and upcoming events. Facebook also allows you to add comments and discuss issues with other users.



[www.youtube.com/xavierbecerra](http://www.youtube.com/xavierbecerra)  
Visit my YouTube channel to see the latest videos of my floor statements, town hall meetings, media appearances and more.



[www.flickr.com/photos/xavierbecerra](http://www.flickr.com/photos/xavierbecerra)  
Visit my Flickr page for photos from recent events and activities throughout the 31st District and Washington D.C.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Obama Administration has implemented the "Making Home Affordable" plan to help stabilize our housing market and help millions of Americans reduce their monthly mortgage payments to more affordable levels. The plan includes two programs, the Making Home Affordable Refinancing program and the Making Home Affordable Loan Modification program.

Making Home Affordable—Refinancing

This program aims to help borrowers whose loans are held by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac to refinance into a more affordable mortgage. The program is for those who have a solid payment history on an existing loan, but are unable to refinance because their homes have lost value. Those homeowners who are "under water" will now be eligible to refinance their loan to take advantage of today's lower interest rates.

Making Home Affordable—Loan Modification

This program is designed to help homeowners who are struggling to make their monthly mortgage payments because their interest rate has increased or they have less income. The program will help homeowners avoid foreclosure by reducing monthly mortgage payments. To benefit, your home must be your primary residence, your mortgage was obtained before 2009, and the amount owed on first mortgage is equal to or less than \$729,750. You also need to have had a significant increase in your mortgage payment, reduction in your income, or you have suffered a hardship that has increased your expenses. Your payment on your first mortgage must also be more than 31% of your current gross income.

To find out how to take advantage of these programs...

Visit <http://www.MakingHomeAffordable.Gov>  
Call: 1-888-995-HOPE (4673)  
Or call my office at 213-483-1425.

<http://Becerra.House.gov>

Si desea esta información en español, por favor llame al (213) 483-1425.

DROP BY THE OFFICE OR GIVE ME A CALL

1119 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Tel: (202) 225-6235

1910 Sunset Blvd.,#810  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
Tel: (213) 483-1425



**Congressman Xavier Becerra**

REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT  
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CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S NEWSLETTER • CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT • SUMMER 2009 • <http://Becerra.House.gov>



HEALTH CARE REFORM CAN NOT WAIT

Over the past several months you have shared your health care stories with me in person, through my Web site, at "Coffee With Your Congressman" events and telephone town hall meetings. Your message is clear: our health care system is not working for too many families and reform can not wait.

a doctor you like, you can keep them. We will provide more choices, including private and public plans. If you change jobs, start a new business or lose your job, you could retain your health insurance. And insurance companies will no longer be able to deny you coverage based on preexisting medical conditions.

Like you, millions of Americans worry not only about getting well, but about whether they can afford to get well. America spends nearly twice as much per person on health care than any other country, yet we have worse health outcomes to show for it. Every day, 14,000 Americans lose their health insurance. And the cost of health insurance premiums is rising three times faster than our salaries.

You and your family will no longer have to worry about falling into bankruptcy due to illness or injury. The decisions about your health care will be in your hands and those of your medical professionals, not insurance company executives.

This is a problem we can no longer avoid. Our economy and fiscal future are tied to building on what works in our health care system and fixing what is broken.

The process is not going to be easy, but the cost of doing nothing is too high. Doing nothing will put more and more Americans at risk of losing their health insurance. America's nurses and doctors support health care reform, and with your help and support, we will get it done. This is a shared responsibility. We owe it to our families.

That is why President Obama and Congress have made fixing health care our number-one priority. This reform, under the America's Affordable Health Choices Act, could bring down costs, offer more choices, and guarantee affordable, quality health care for all.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA  
Member of Congress

Here is how you and your family could benefit under the House reform bill: if you are insured and have a plan and

Si desea esta información en español, por favor llame al (213) 483-1425.

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515



M.C.  
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# CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C.



## AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT PAVES THE WAY TO RENEWED PROSPERITY

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), signed into law on February 17 by President Obama in the first month of his term, is paving a path to renewed prosperity for America. After nearly a decade of failure to invest in our nation's infrastructure, schools, and clean energy sector the Recovery Act has already begun to save and create jobs, get our economy moving again, and set us on a path to long-term growth and stability. While economic recovery will not happen overnight, these major investments are paving a path to sustained prosperity for all Americans.

### RECOVERY ACT INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA

#### EDUCATION >>

- \$44.5 billion for local school districts to prevent layoffs and modernize school buildings
- Increase Pell Grants from \$4,731 to \$5,350
- \$2.1 billion for Head Start early education programs

#### HEALTH CARE >>

- \$86.6 billion for states to maintain Medicaid services
- 65 percent subsidy of health insurance premiums for the unemployed (under COBRA)
- \$19 billion for health information technology and modernization of health care records and communications
- \$2 billion for Community Health Centers

#### TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE >>

- \$27.5 billion for highway and bridge construction projects
- \$8 billion for intercity light-rail passenger rail projects and rail congestion relief
- \$6.9 billion for new equipment for public transportation projects
- \$6 billion for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure

#### GREEN ENERGY >>

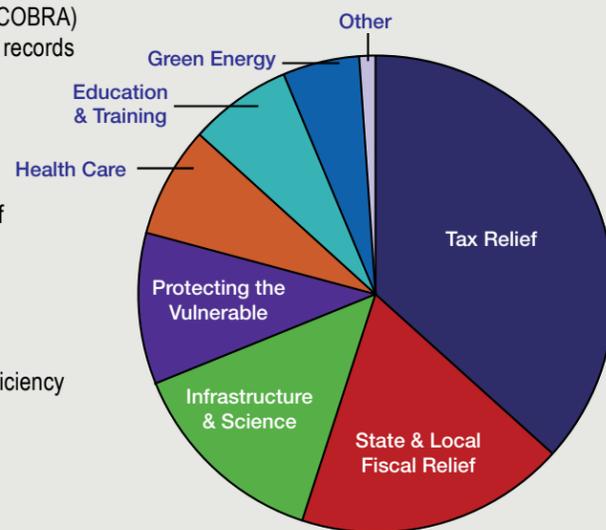
- \$11 billion funding for an electric smart grid
- \$6.3 billion for state and local governments to make investments in energy efficiency
- \$5 billion for weatherizing modest-income homes

#### MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF >>

- Making Work Pay payroll tax credit of \$400 for individuals, \$800 for couples
- \$1,000 per child tax credit to more families
- \$2,500 expanded tax credit for college tuition and expenses

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, not only will we overcome this crisis, we will be stronger than ever with better infrastructure, a cleaner environment, renovated schools, more college graduates, and an improved healthcare system.

#### INVESTMENTS BY CATEGORY



To learn more about the Recovery Act, visit [www.Recovery.Gov](http://www.Recovery.Gov)

## HOUSE PASSES HISTORIC GREEN ENERGY BILL TO CREATE JOBS, CURB GLOBAL WARMING

A startling fact: new satellite data show that this year only 10 percent of the northern polar ice cap will remain frozen year-round. That is down from the normal 30 to 40 percent—and is half the amount of permanent ice that existed two years ago. On June 26, the House of Representatives took a major step toward putting an end to global warming by passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The bill puts us on a path to reduce carbon pollution by 80% over the next four decades while creating millions of good paying jobs in the domestic green energy sector. Major investments in new clean energy technologies and energy efficiency are included in the bill. Now the Senate must act before this important legislation can be signed into law. Once this bill is enacted, the United States will no longer sit idly by as the rest of the industrialized world makes progress toward achieving energy independence and reducing carbon emissions—we will be leading the charge.

To learn more about Rep. Becerra's legislation, visit the 'Issues' section of his Web site: <http://Becerra.House.Gov>

# THE DISTRICT DIGEST DISPATCHES FROM THE 31ST

## CASEWORK Corner

My casework staff has over 30 years combined experience in helping you secure the services and benefits for which your tax dollars pay. Since January of this year, we have helped more than 250 constituents resolve issues with federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), among others.

To learn more about the Casework process in my office, please visit the "CONSTITUENT SERVICES" section of my Web site.



## VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN HIGHLIGHTS RECOVERY ACT INVESTMENTS IN CA-31

On May 15, I welcomed Vice President Joe Biden and Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Ron Simms to California's 31st Congressional District for a visit to Esperanza Community Housing Corporation in South Los Angeles (see photo). The Vice President saw firsthand the positive impact that the Recovery Act is having on modest-income neighborhoods throughout the country. Esperanza received a grant of \$875,000 for their Healthy Homes Project through the Recovery Act, which will cover the expense of clearing 255 homes of lead toxins. Approximately 85% of the homes in this area were built before federal lead-reduction efforts began in 1978. In total, California will receive \$17,624,182 to clear 1,845 homes of lead toxins statewide. The Recovery Act funds will generate much needed jobs while improving the health of vulnerable residents. With the leadership of President Obama and Vice President Biden and the dedication of organizations like Esperanza, Recovery Act funds are being put to work, creating jobs and improving the quality of life in our communities.

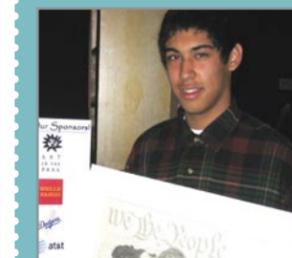


## HEALTH CARE REFORM DISCUSSED ON DISTRICT-WIDE TELEPHONE TOWN HALLS

Throughout the summer I discussed health care reform with hundreds of constituents during four separate telephone town halls. The hour-long conversations covered a wide range of topics surrounding health care reform, including cost-control, universal coverage, the need for more nurses and general practitioners, and how to pay for reform. We heard from doctors and nurses who live in our district, as well as many others who shared their personal experiences accessing health care under the current system. These were extremely valuable and enlightening discussions that continue to inform my work in Congress.

The telephone town hall is a new and exciting way for me to hear your

thoughts and views directly when the congressional schedule keeps me from hosting one of my regular "Coffee" town halls. You can listen to the complete audio of my Health Care Telephone Town Halls in the Podcasts section of <http://Becerra.House.Gov>. Make sure to sign-up for my email updates and stay tuned for the next Telephone Town Hall.



## JOSHUA FRAUSTO WINS TOP PRIZE AT CA-31 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

Joshua Frausto's drawing "We The People" (shown here) will be on display in the halls of the United States Capitol for the next year after being judged the best out of 124 entries to this year's 31st Congressional District Student Art Competition. Frausto, a senior at Eagle Rock High School, received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the June 24 National Congressional Student Art Competition ribbon-cutting ceremony, among other prizes.

To view video segments of past "Coffee" meetings, floor statements, press conferences, and many more events, visit the 'Becerra Broadcast' section of <http://Becerra.House.Gov>

